

# More lumbar Sx complications at teaching hospitals

March 12 2014

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(HealthDay)—Patients undergoing lumbar spine surgery at teaching hospitals incur longer hospitalizations and have more postoperative complications compared to those treated at nonteaching hospitals, according to a study published in the March 1 issue of *Spine*.

Sreeharsha V. Nandyala, from Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, and colleagues characterized perioperative complications of 658,616 lumbar spine procedures performed at teaching hospitals (55.9 percent) and nonteaching hospitals. Data were queried from the Nationwide Inpatient Sample (2002 to 2011) for patients undergoing an anterior [lumbar interbody fusion](#), posterior lumbar interbody fusion, anterior/posterior lumbar fusion, or lumbar decompression for the treatment of lumbar degenerative pathology.

The researchers found that patients treated at a [teaching hospital](#) were older and had a greater comorbidity burden than the nonteaching group (Charlson Comorbidity Index, 2.90 versus 2.55; P

"Despite these differences, the teaching status was not a significant predictor of in-hospital mortality after a [lumbar spine surgery](#)," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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